

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the above amendments and following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4, 8, 10, 14-17, 20, 22, and 26-45 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Claims 2-4, 17, and 27 have been amended. Support for this amendment is found by way of non-limiting example in FIGS. 14A-14D and the associated specification description. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Final Office Action, Claims 3, 36-40, and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite; Claims 2-4, 8, 14, 16, 27, 28, 30, 31, 33, 35, 36, 38, 40-43, and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Suda (U.S. Patent No. 6,388,707 B1); Claims 10, 22, 29, 32, and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suda in view of Kaite (U.S. Patent No. 4,614,975); and Claims 15, 17, 20, 26, 34, 39, and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suda.

The Advisory Action indicated that the rejection of Claims 3, 36-40, and 42 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph has been withdrawn. The Advisory Action further maintained the rejections of Claims 2-4, 8, 10, 14-17, 20, 22, and 26-45 based on the cited references.

Responsive to the rejection of independent Claims 2-4 and 27 as being anticipated by Suda and the rejection of independent Claim 17 as being unpatentable over Suda, the independent claims have been amended to recite “displaying an autofocus frame corresponding to the first region.” It is respectfully submitted that this feature is neither disclosed by nor rendered obvious by Suda or Kaite or the combination thereof.

It is respectfully submitted that there is a typographical error found in Suda (column 12, line 6). Where Suda refers to FIGS. 4(b) and 4(c), it is clear that it should refer to FIG. 4(d). There is no discussion in the paragraph beginning at column 12, line 6 and ending in line 17 of frames 406 or 407 of FIG. 4(c) of Suda. Rather, the references in the paragraph beginning in line 13 are to frame 408 which is found in FIG. 4(d). Thus, it is clear that this paragraph should begin “FIGS. 4(b) and 4(d) . . .”

Suda describes that when an error in detecting the line of sight has been found, the range finding in photometry frame 404 as depicted in FIG. 4(b) is larger in size as compared with the size of the same created when the line of sight detection is performed normally. Furthermore, Suda states, “a frame 408 for display is set in the central portion of the screen, the frame 408 having a size that is the same as that when the line of sight detection is performed normally.” That is, Suda clearly discloses that even when the range finding and photometry frame 404 is made larger, the display frame 408 is made the same size as when line of sight detection is performed normally. This in contrast to the recitation in each of the independent Claims 2-4, 17, and 27 in which the displayed autofocus frame corresponds to the size of the first predetermined region within an imaging range.

It is respectfully submitted that it would not have been obvious to change the display frame size of Suda because to do so would be to directly contradict the intent and purpose as expressly described in Suda.

It is respectfully submitted that Claims 8, 10, 14-16, 20, 22, 26, and 28-45 are patentable at least for the reasons argued above with regard to the claims from which they depend.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of Claims 2-4, 8, 10, 14-17, 20, 22, and 26-45 be reconsidered and that Claims 2-4, 8, 10, 14-17, 20, 22, and 26-45 be allowed.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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